

REMARKS

The Office Action of July 29, 2005 has been received and its contents carefully considered.

Synopsis of the Disclosure:

The present application discloses several embodiments of a printer. The embodiment shown in Figure 1, for example, includes a print controller 1 and a printhead 2. These elements are connected by a connection arrangement that includes a data signal line and a plurality of strobe signal lines. Print controller 1 sends print data to the printhead over the print signal line. The printhead 2 has LEDs that are actuated in accordance with the print data. Instead of being actuated all at once, different groups of LEDs are selected for actuation in accordance with strobe signals on the strobe signal lines.

Due to variations in the LEDs, correction values are stored in an EEPROM 8. Before actual printing starts, the correction values are read out of the EEPROM 8 through the strobe signal lines (see the passage from page 28 of the application, line 3, to page 31, line 12). The read-out correction values are temporarily stored in a RAM 4 in the print controller 1, and are then sent to the printhead 2 over the data signal line. As a result, correction values can be loaded into the printhead 2 without expanding the connection arrangement between the print controller 1 and the printhead 2 beyond what is needed for ordinary printing.

The Rejections:

Section 4 of the Office Action rejects independent claims 1 and 8 (along with several dependent claims) for obviousness based on U.S. patent 5,864,253 to Katakura et

al (hereafter simply “Katakura”) in view of U.S. patent 5,959,650 to Fukui et al (hereafter simply “Fukui”). For the reasons discussed below, however, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 8, as currently formulated, are patentable over these references.

At the middle of page 4, the Office Action acknowledges that Katakura’s arrangement does not include a memory for storing correction values. However, the Office Action refers to the passage at column 6 of Fukui, lines 21-27, and takes the position that the Fukui reference does disclose a memory for storing correction values. The cited passage at Fukui’s column 6 advises that a data ROM 209 in Fukui’s Figure 2 (the same figure that is reproduced on the cover sheet of the reference) stores various kinds of data such as gamma correction data.

The present Amendment revises both independent claims to recite that the stored correction values are “for correcting for variations in the driven elements.” An ordinarily skilled person would understand that gamma correction values are quite different from correction values to correct for variations.

Claim 1 has been amended to provide that the memory that stores the correction values is a first memory, and that the print controller includes a second memory. Claim 1 has also been amended to recite that “the print controller reads the connection values out of the first memory using the strobe signal lines, the read-out correction values being stored in the second memory and then being transmitted to the driving section over the data line ...”. This claim language must be read in conjunction with other language in claim 1, which provides that print data are transferred to the driving section over the data line and that strobe signals conveyed over the strobe signal lines cause the driving section

to drive groups of driven elements in accordance with the print data. That is, the same data line that carries the print data to the driving section was used previously to convey the correction values to the driving section, and the same strobe signal lines that are used to strobe groups of driven elements were used previously to read out the correction values from the first memory. This is neither disclosed nor suggested by Fukui.


Independent claim 8 has likewise been revised to provide that both print data and correction values are conveyed over a data signal line. Furthermore, claim 8 already provides that strobe signals for causing groups of driven elements to be driven in accordance with print data are conveyed to a driving section via strobe signal lines, and that a print controller reads correction values out of a first memory via the strobe signal lines. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by independent claim 8 is patentable over the references for reasons along the lines discussed above with respect to claim 1.

Since the remaining claims depend from the independent claims discussed above and recite additional limitations to further define the invention, they are patentable along with their independent claims and need not be further discussed. It is nevertheless noted that the present Amendment cancels dependent claims 17 and 19 as redundant in view of the changes that have been made to claim 1, revises various other dependent claims, and adds two new dependent claims to provide additional protection for the invention.

Conclusion:

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Allen Wood". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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